

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1-57. (canceled)

58. (canceled)

59. (canceled)

60. (canceled)

61. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide ~~of Claim 58~~ comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;

~~(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

[[~~(c)~~]] (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

62. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide of Claim ~~[[58]]~~ 61 comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 99% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or

(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

63. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or

(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487.

64. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 63 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523.

65. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 63 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide.

66. (canceled)

67. (canceled)

68. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 63 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487.

69. (currently amended) A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim ~~58 or 71~~ 61 or 74 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

70. (previously presented) The chimeric polypeptide of Claim 69, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is an epitope tag or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.

71. (canceled)

72. (canceled)

73. (canceled)

74. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide of Claim ~~71~~ comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;

~~(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

[[c)] (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces proliferation of rat utricular supporting cells.

75. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide of Claim [[71]] 74 comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 99% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;
  - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
  - (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487,
- wherein said polypeptide induces proliferation of rat utricular supporting cells.